

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article defining a longitudinal axis, an overall length dimension measured parallel to the longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, first and second longitudinally spaced waist regions, a crotch region which extends between and interconnects the first and second waist regions, an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, the absorbent article adapted to provide a pant configuration having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, the absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent chassis comprising an absorbent assembly;

attachment panels extending transversely outward from the absorbent assembly in the first waist region, the attachment panels having a length dimension that is about 20 percent or greater of the overall length dimension, each attachment panel ~~comprising a nonwoven substrate~~ consisting essentially of an elastomeric nonwoven material that extends from the waist opening to one of the leg openings and defines an inner attachment surface; and

at least one fastening component disposed in the second waist region on the outer surface, the at least one fastening component comprising a mechanical fastening element adapted to refastenably engage the inner attachment surfaces;

wherein the refastenable engagement of the mechanical fastening element and the inner attachment surfaces maintains the absorbent article in the pant configuration.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the attachment panels consist of an elastomeric nonwoven material.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the first and second waist regions are not refastenably connectable other than by the refastenable connection of the mechanical fastening elements and the inner attachment surfaces.

8. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a pair of fastening components disposed in the second waist region on the outer surface, the fastening components comprising hook-type fasteners, each fastening component having a length dimension that is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, a width dimension, and a length-to-width ratio of about 5 or greater .

9. (Original) An absorbent article defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, front and back longitudinally spaced waist regions, a crotch region which extends between and interconnects the front and back waist regions, an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, the absorbent article adapted to provide a pant configuration having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, the absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent chassis comprising a liquid permeable bodyside liner, a liquid impermeable outer cover bonded to the bodyside liner, and an absorbent assembly disposed between the bodyside liner and the outer cover;

first and second attachment panels bonded to the absorbent chassis in the back waist region and extending transversely outward from the absorbent chassis, the first and second attachment panels consisting essentially of an elastomeric nonwoven material and having inner attachment surfaces; and

at least one fastening component disposed in the front waist region on the outer surface, the at least one fastening component comprising a plurality of engaging elements projecting outward from the outer surface and adapted to refastenably engage the inner attachment surfaces of the attachment panels;

wherein the refastenable engagement of the attachment panels to the at least one fastening component maintains the absorbent article in the pant configuration.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the attachment panels consist of an elastomeric nonwoven material.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the front and back waist regions are not refastenably connectable other than by the refastenable connection of the plurality of engaging elements and the inner attachment surfaces.

15. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the absorbent article has an overall length dimension and the attachment panels have a length dimension that is about 20 percent or greater of the overall length dimension.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 9, further comprising a pair of fastening components disposed in the front waist region on the outer surface, each fastening component having an inner end edge disposed toward one of the leg openings, an opposite outer end edge disposed toward the waist opening, a length dimension that is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, a width dimension, and a length-to-width ratio of about 5 or greater.

18. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 9, further comprising first and second side panels bonded to the absorbent chassis in the front waist region and extending transversely outward from the absorbent ~~assembly~~ chassis, and first and second fastening components disposed on the first and second side panels.

19. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, front and back longitudinally spaced waist regions, a crotch region which extends between and interconnects the front and back waist regions, an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, the absorbent article adapted to provide a pant configuration having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, the absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent chassis comprising a liquid permeable bodyside liner, a liquid impermeable outer cover bonded to the bodyside liner, and an absorbent assembly disposed between the bodyside liner and the outer cover;

first and second attachment panels extending transversely outward from the absorbent assembly chassis in the back waist region, the first and second attachment panels consisting essentially of an elastomeric nonwoven material and having inner attachment surfaces; and

at least one fastening component disposed in the front waist region on the outer surface, the at least one fastening component comprising a plurality of engaging elements projecting outward from the outer surface and adapted to refastenably engage the attachment surfaces of the attachment panels;

wherein the refastenable engagement of the attachment panels to the at least one fastening component maintains the absorbent article in the pant configuration.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the attachment panels consist of an elastomeric nonwoven material.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the ~~first and second~~ front and back waist regions are not refastenably connectable other than by the refastenable connection of the mechanical fastening elements and the inner attachment surfaces.

25. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the absorbent article has an overall length dimension and the attachment panels have a length dimension that is about 20 percent or greater of the overall length dimension.

26. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the refastenable engagement of the attachment panels to the at least one fastening component forms refastenable seams that cover about 80 to about 98 percent of the distance between the waist opening and each leg opening.
27. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the first and second attachment panels comprise different portions of a single unitary panel member.
28. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein an elastomeric material is operatively joined to the first and second attachment panels.
29. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the attachment panels comprise an inner facing layer, an outer facing layer, and a plurality of elastomeric segments disposed between the inner and outer facing layers.
30. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 19, further comprising a pair of fastening components disposed in the front waist region on the outer surface, each fastening component having an inner end edge disposed toward one of the leg openings, an opposite outer end edge disposed toward the waist opening, a length dimension that is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, a width dimension, and a length-to-width ratio of about 5 or greater.
31. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 19, further comprising first and second side panels extending transversely outward from the absorbent ~~assembly~~ chassis in the front waist region, and first and second fastening components disposed on the first and second side panels.
32. (New) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the first and second side panels define first and second distal edges, and the first and second fastening components are positioned within about 1 centimeter of the first and second distal edges.
33. (New) The absorbent article of claim 31, wherein the first and second side panels define first and second distal edges, and the first and second fastening components are positioned within about 1 centimeter of the first and second distal edges.

34. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the refastenable engagement of the at least one fastening component to the inner attachment surfaces forms refastenable seams that cover about 80 to about 100 percent of the distance between the waist opening and each leg opening, and wherein an adhesive coating is disposed on the inner surface of each attachment panel, the adhesive coating adapted to engage the fastening component.